

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his attention to the Office Action of October 11, 2002.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 2 over United States Patent No. 6,291,023 (the "Nigam patent") under sections 102 and 103. Claims 1-2 have been cancelled, and claims 3-16 submitted as defined above.

The Nigam patent does not disclose, nor does it render obvious, the pending claims. Nigam makes only passing reference at column 12, line 6 to "inorganic fillers", without explaining what could have been meant by such a vague reference. Nigam does not teach the use of particulate material, or particles, to serve as ink receiving agents. The use of inorganic PARTICLES are specifically taught in the practice of the invention, and are recited in each independent claim pending above (with the exception of Claim 16, which include antimicrobial additives).

Nigam also does not teach inorganic particles having a size of between about 1 and about 10 microns, wherein the inorganic particles are selected from the group consisting of: silica, silicate, calcium carbonate, aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide and titanium dioxide. Thus, Nigam does not anticipate claim 1.

Nigam further does not teach the use of antimicrobial agents or additives, as specified in several claims, including Claim 16.

There is no teaching in Nigam that would counsel in favor of combining the compositions of Nigam with particles. Absent some express teaching in the art to make such a combination, there can be no obviousness.

USPTO Customer No. 25280
Serial No: 09/943,920

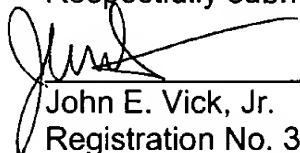
Inventor(s): Li et al.
Case No: 5251

It is believed that the above claims patentably define over the prior art record and that the application is in complete condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment, however, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for a two month extension of time to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,


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